

Disciple Making Plan/Pathway (DMP) Factsheet:

The mission of every church is clear in the United Methodist Church: We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our #1 priority is for our churches to be inviting new people to say YES to following Jesus and to do this it has been proven that DMPS are very effective. DMPS are intentional plans created by a church to make disciples. They are sometimes referred to as intentional discipleship systems.

The UNY Conference Leadership Team believes the following factors need to be present for a fruitful DMP:

- 1.) A simple system that describes at least the following three major types of experience that will be present: Engaging Worship that brings people into an experience of the Holy Spirit and God's grace; Small Groups that allow people to go deep in their faith through learning, discussion, mutual support, and prayer; and, Outreach/Service in the community/world that shows God's love, fosters real relationships between church people and unchurched people, and leads to invitations to come see Jesus.
- 2.) Clarity about multiple doorways into the church for new people... and attention paid to hospitality for new people in each setting. New people can find their way to church through any of the three types of gatherings listed in #1.
- 3.) A pathway within the small group part of the system, that includes a series of experiences of learning and growing that every person experiences. This might include things like: a meeting with the pastor(s); a 101 class (or classes) where basic discipleship is taught; a 201 class (or classes) where people discover their spiritual gifts and are given an opportunity to see how they might offer their gifts for the good of the church and community; a class where people learn what it means to be a member of a church before committing (including service, stewardship, sharing your faith with others, etc); a process whereby everyone becomes engaged; service/outreach ministry in the community; an invitation to ongoing small groups that provide places for people to go deeper and hold one another accountable to spiritual disciplines, personal goals related to faith and relationships, equipping for faith sharing/evangelism with new people, etc.
- 4.) Clear movement from any one of the experiences in #3 to the next, and clarity about how people are invited to make these movements... when and where to go for the next step!
- 5.) A memorable visual representation of the DMP that is re-created in many places and in diverse media around the church for everyone to see.
- 6.) Constant talk about and teaching around the DMP by both lay and clergy leaders... so that it becomes the core culture of the church!

If your church would like assistance in creating a DMP, contact one of your Region's District Superintendents.